

161 census reports, the Communist press cites such cases as that of Ai-ling and Sheng-li hsiang in Chiang-ning hsien, Kiangsu Province.⁵

- [163] From June 1951 through June 1953 in these two
[165] village groups the average birth rate was 33.64
● per thousand, or 3.36 per cent, and the average death rate was 1.93 per cent. The natural increase thus was 1.43 per cent, somewhat lower than the national average of 2 per cent given in the communique announcing the official results of the 1953 census. On the other hand, a higher average of 2.7 per cent was reported after a survey conducted during 1952-53 by the municipal government of Chiang-ning hsien in co-operation with the Department of the Interior of the Central People's Government and the Revolutionary Military Committee, using as a cross-section 29 municipalities, 5 hsien, 2 hsiang, and one village. There appears to be some grounds for the Peking claim of 99.5 per cent accuracy for the 1953 census. The population increase in the East China Region, judging by the few scattered samples reported in the Communist press, seems to be well within the general pattern of the nation as a whole.

Another comparison may be made of earlier census figures and those for 1953. The result tends to show that Peking is exercising considerable discretion in claiming the 2 per cent average rate of increase. Although, when we examine the following table such a study may help to ascertain the validity of Peking's claim,

5. Jen-min Jih-pao (People's Daily), Peking March 11, 1954.

SITE

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gain. As long as water transport retains its basic place in the Chinese economy, a harbor for ocean ships will be maintained at Shanghai as the commercial center of the Yangtze basin. 503

Relief and Climate

The site has only two advantages of importance: it is almost completely flat, and it has a more favorable climate than rival south China ports. Ample level ground was useful during the purely commercial phase of the city's development in allowing adequate space for storage of goods, for half of China's foreign trade passed through Shanghai from 1865 on, but it was more important in allowing the development of manufacturing after 1895. The commercial center which began in an area of 43 acres along the Whangpoo in 1843, demarcated and defended by creeks, was able to grow outward toward the west, south, and north as both political and economic conditions provided the impetus for metropolitan industrial development. Level ground continues unbroken within a twenty-mile radius of the city. While the site's liability to floods is a notable disadvantage, level ground must in general be counted an asset, especially as against the lack of it in Hong Kong, Foochow, Amoy, and other south China ports. 133 361

Shanghai's climate is influenced alternately by cold dry air from inner Asia and Siberia, and by warm moist Pacific air; it is tropical for one third of the year and temperate for two thirds. Rainfall averages 45 inches annually, 14 inches of which falls in June and July, but with no very marked seasonal concentration. July and August are uncomfortably tropical, and while rains keep the temperature below 90° for at least a quarter of these two months, the relative humidity throughout this period averages 84 per cent. Temperatures rarely exceed 98°. Vital statistics for foreign residents of the China treaty ports included in the yearly medical reports published since 1870 by the Maritime Customs give Shanghai, with a death rate averaging 16 per thousand annually for the period 1870-1930, a relatively good record. Most of the foreign residents considered it among the healthier treaty ports despite its uncomfortable summer, during which as many of them as were able left the city for the central mountain belt or the Shantung beaches. The accompanying table com- 132 [65]